

Soviet Spy Testifies He Deceived Navy Confederate in Spying Ring

By PHILIP SHENON

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SAN FRANCISCO, April 29 — John A. Walker Jr., the confessed leader of a Soviet spy ring, said today that he had deceived his Navy colleague, Jerry A. Whitworth, from the first days of the espionage conspiracy Mr. Walker says they carried out.

According to Mr. Walker's testimony at Mr. Whitworth's espionage trial here, he provided Mr. Whitworth's name to Soviet agents shortly after Mr. Whitworth agreed to steal secret Navy documents. Mr. Walker said he disclosed the name despite his friend's plea to remain anonymous in the spy operation.

"He insisted that his name would not be used with my contact," Mr. Walker said of Mr. Whitworth.

But Mr. Walker said he broke the agreement, stating that Soviet agents would not have been willing to work with an anonymous spy. "The Soviets won't deal unless they know exactly who they are dealing with," he said.

In his second day of testimony in Federal District Court as the Government's chief witness, Mr. Walker said that Soviet officials were annoyed when he told them that Mr. Whitworth had been recruited into espionage.

"They were alarmed that I had recruited anyone without their permission," he said. "They didn't know until after the recruitment was done."

The Government has charged that Mr. Whitworth, a retired Navy radio-man who had top-secret security clear-

ance in his military career, joined a spy ring that included Mr. Walker and two other members of the Walker family, John Walker's son, Michael L., and his brother Arthur J. The son pleaded guilty and the brother was convicted. Mr. Whitworth has pleaded not guilty.

In today's testimony, Mr. Walker disclosed new details of his espionage work, including a 1977 trip to Casablanca, where he said he met face to face with a Soviet contact. Mr. Walker said Mr. Whitworth used a tiny Minox camera to photograph secret documents and passed the film to Mr. Walker. The film cartridges were sometimes hidden in boxes that contained Q-Tips, Mr. Walker said.

'A Normal Exchange'

Mr. Walker, who was also a Navy veteran, said that Soviet officials were highly impressed with the communications secrets provided by Mr. Whitworth. "It was considered excellent by the Soviets," he said. Mr. Whitworth, in his Navy posts, had access to the machines used to place secret messages in code.

The Government has charged that in exchange for the Navy secrets Mr. Whitworth received hundreds of thousands of dollars from Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker today offered detailed accounts of several purported payments.

"It was a normal exchange between us: classified material for money," he said.